Varany Jaffna Ceylon Jany 7
1839 –

My Dear Brethren

Your welcome letter of Dec 9 1837 reached me in April & Rarely glad was I to get at length a line from an institution endeared to me by so many tender recollections — The "Longer letter of which it was a pledge" has not come to hand — I would advise you to write Care Mr Joseph Seymour 27 ~~Hatt~~ Hatton Garden London — when I was in Prin: you could put London letters into the P. Office, merely paying postage to N York — unless you know a vessel is coming —

You ask if there is a "growing attachment to the people among whom we are called to labor as is often in a pastor to his flock in Amca. Not at all as there — we do not mingle in social intercourse with the people as there — we do not eat together & all our habits & modes of life are different — Very few of us can really converse *with ease & fluency in their language & tho' many of our pupils know more or less of English Very few can converse with ease & freedom in it — The fact is that there is in all India at least a wide gulph between Missys & people which weakens our hands & impairs & swallows up much of our usefulness — When a new Missy comes it often strikes him unfavorably & he often thinks he will remove it — or disregard it but he soon finds it harder than he thought, & it is well if he does not go to the other extreme — the people at large care little or nothing for us except as they can get money or

*Perhaps I ought to say more — Certainly none of either class have mastered the [illegible] language some other advantage out of us & very few are drawn to us in the first instance by any other motive than that of interest — They come to get their living as School Masters — Servants — Laborers of various kinds — Board Scholars &c & while thus connected with us & therefore hearing the truth, some repent & believe — It really makes them in one sense better subjects for the Gospel influenced to be dependent on us as they are thus more ready to give a fair hearing to the truth which otherwise they would reject without a thought — Moreover the people would oppose much less an union with the Church in one in our pay than an independent man as they would consider it almost a part of their service — we have very few who joined the Church before they were more or less dependent on us —

I shall be always happy to answer your queries as far as I am able — If some plan could be devised whereby missy intelligence could be systematically collected & so concentrated & secured as to be available it might be useful — As it is miss. have very little idea of the exact state of their work — their labors — trials & needs till they get on the ground & usually go thro a sort of seasoning process — sometimes painful both to themselves & others — before they find themselves to be "Old missionar Some of this might be saved —

I feel somewhat anxious with regard to the character of the missl who may come when the

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Beard begins to Lend— Nursed as they have been in
the midst of Strife & Contention— Where brother has
been at war with Brother & the Cheif men in the
Church employing their highest energies in opposition,
I know not how they will make out where peace
& harmony is the watchword to Success & happiness.
Bad as Contention is in a Christian land it is tenfold
worse among the heathen— & many as are the Causes
of Collision in America they are many more here— "Buy
the peace & Sell it not" must be the missy rule—
He Cannot afford to quarrel in India— Time is too
precious & Evil feelings recoil on the health much
very much more here than in Am.— You know little
of this— In fact both as to body & mind we find
a vast difference between the self Restoring power of
the System here & in Am.a "Health may be preserved
in India but not regained"— to return— Learn
peace— I speak to those who are thinking of a missy
life— Learn to Submit Cheerfully to the will of the
majority × a hard lesson sometimes but the presumption
is strong that a large majority at least, are right
Few Characters are less useful & more troublesome
here than a man who with a proud confidence in
his own Opinion Sets at nought the judgments of
his brethren Look at this Subject— you will have
need to put these principles in practice if ever you are
to be useful missl. Learn also greatly to respect the
judgment of those who have been long on the field— In some
respects they will doubtless be in error, but on your first

× There are extraordinary Cases— exceptions these are few Such speak for themselves

arrival you will be entirely unfettered to judge them
there are many important principles & facts bearing on
their conduct which you will not fully appreciate
for years & probably in proportion to your confi-
dence in your own judgement will be your liability
to error — I am now in my 6th year & feel my-
self a learner & can see many many cases in which
both myself - my companions & followers have erred
from not understanding the whole ground —

I think I wrote you with regard to the great
importance of a miss.y studying the language in
Am.a & far more his wife — If she can possibly
get a start in it it should be done at any sacrifice —
If she does not perhaps she will never learn it as
is the case with many miss.y wives in India
I never saw any one in Am.a who had any idea
of the difficulty that lays in the way of a miss.y
wifes learning the language — If she comes with some
knowledge every one will learn — If not, looking
at facts a large proportion will not — There are
now several miss.y children in Am.a some
whom w.d be competent to aid & the Rev.d
M.r Knight of Jaffna the best Tamul scholar
in the Island will probably visit Am.a from
England about the time this arrives — If any of
you could return with him the advantage would be
worth almost any sacrifice of time or money —

I seem not to have answered D.r Alexander Kent letter of Oct 37 — In any case
please thank him for it & say I thought it was answered —

If you can see him it would be well — tell them that our
work is progressing — that our Church is gradually
rising in Christian Character & that the gospel is
recommending itself tho we see very few Conversions
none I think except in our Boardg Schools — I have not
time to enlarge

I requested a friend at Madras to send
herewith a copy of Mr Rhenius pamphlet on the
principles of translating the Scriptures, if to be had — If
it comes please shew it to your professors & inform
me of their opinion I should also like to have
the subject discussed — It is one of great *practical*
moment — A Version made by Mr R on this prin
ciples is now printing (N Testament printed before)
the question arises which that is right the new
or old — I think our English Version cannot
at all stand the test if tried by his principles —
I think you will be able to understand the Pamphlet
tho' there is so much Tamul in it —

Smith Shortly after my arrival here say 1832 I recd
a Volume of Rosenmuller on Ezekiel I think & knew not how it
came — a few days since I saw a small memo: in it by which
I supposed it came for me thro Prof: Hodge — If so will you
kindly ascertain the price — & inform me — If any of you could
manage to get the money from the agent A B C F M in N.Yk
& let him get it again of Mr Hill (Treasr A.B.C, Boston) or any
one could see Mr Hill & get it from him it would much
oblige me & please in any case explain the matter to
Prof H: I donot know that the N.Yk agent would give the money
Mr Hill *Certainly* will whenever asked

You will give my best & most affe. regards to the Professors & their families — we are in usual health — nothing new — Mrs A is absent at present on a Journey to Madura & Madras for her health which has been very much benefitted & she is better than for years — expect her 1st March — I have a little boarding School of 12 girls & expect to increase it to about 20 — Cannot get them (except 2) here i.e. at Chavachery as yet — Could get almost any number from the old Stations — Some of them seem serious (2 are Ch members) & all attentive —

You may understand me too unfavourably as to our Church members — true here & sin in every heathen & Antichristian — and then the pollution is hard to wash off — remember this — But it is pleased to see the image of Christ in them tho' the medium be obscure — & to see that they are purifying — A blessed work — but it has its trials — & different from what is usually supposed — Not Physical, in India at least — life is too delicate here to allow that —

I am aware that you stand pledged to another Board but there is abundant room for all & know not just on what principle a division wd. be best made but it is manifest that no one Board can control the missions that ought to be sustained by the Presbn. & Congregational Churches — We are Brethren — & engaged in the Cause of the same blessed Saviour — Let me hear from you soon —

Yours affly in Christ Jesus

Geo. H. Apthorp

Shd. like to hear of the professors families Mrs Gaston & Sister — Mr Voorhees Mrs Gilum & c & c Also Mr Rip Dikes family South of the Semy near which I had a Sab. School & Miss Mafad. P.S.

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To the Corresponding Secretary of Committee on For. Missions
Princeton (Ph.)
New Jersey
U. S. Am.

JUN 19

Received June 19. 1839
Answered July 1839 —
Written to again Jany. 1844